

HENRY O. MORSE.

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JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HURLEY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8732.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs have carefully considered all the facts bearing upon the bill (H. R. 8732) for the relief of Henry O. Morse, who enlisted as a landsman in the Navy May 18, 1861, and is charged with having deserted September 4, 1861.

Morse admits having left his vessel at that time, but, being a mere boy, he avers that he did not understand the nature of the offense thereby committed, his purpose being to seek service for his country in another branch. His statement seems to be borne out by his record in the Army, as furnished by the War Department. On the 24th of September, 1861, twenty days after his alleged desertion, he was enrolled as a member of Company B, Ninetieth New York Volunteers, and was honorably discharged December 27, 1863. On the 23d of September, 1864, he again enlisted as a substitute in the Ninth Maine Volunteers, and of his service there the Department letter says:

He appears to have served faithfully as a member of said organization until July 10, 1865, when he was honorably discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability.

In view of these facts, and of the further fact, as stated by his neighbors in a communication to the committee, that Mr. Morse has led an exemplary life since the war, your committee recommend that the bill pass.